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APPLICANT(S) : Douglas W. CONMY CONFIRMATION No.: 1268
SERIAL NUMBER : 09/345,448 EXAMINER : Anh Ly
FILING DATE : July 1, 1999 ART UNIT : 2172
FOR : SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ENABLING A USER TO SUBSCRIBE TO
UPDATES FROM INFORMATION SOURCES

PROPOSED AGENDA FOR EXAMINER INTERVIEWDO NOT ENTER

Examiner Ly,

Applicant's representative proposes to discuss the feature of the claimed invention directed to the feature of the selection formula and search criteria. Applicant would like to discuss the possibility of amending the claims or taking other action to place the case in condition for allowance.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:
 - subscription requesting means for enabling a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting means including a selection formula, wherein the selection formula is programmed by the user, the selection formula including search criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;
 - subscription parameter receiving means for receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;
 - search performing means for performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

subscription retrieving means for retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the search performing means performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 2, wherein the search performing means performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising option input means for enabling a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

5. **(Cancelled).**

6. **(Previously Presented)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

a subscription requesting object that enables a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting object including a selection formula, wherein the selection formula is programmed by the user, the selection formula including search criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

a subscription parameter receiving object that receives at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

a search performing object that performs a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

a subscription retrieving object that retrieves the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6, wherein the search performing object performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 7, wherein the search performing object performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6, further comprising an option input object that enables a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

10. **(Cancelled).**

11. **(Previously Presented)** A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

requesting a subscription for at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the request includes a selection formula programmed by a user, the selection formula including search criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to be retrieved;

performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the information to the user.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of periodically searching the at least one database.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 13, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a random basis.

15. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 14, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a periodic basis selected by the user.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting processor readable code for causing a processor to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting processor readable code including a selection formula programmed by a user, the selection formula including search criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving processor readable code for causing a processor to receive at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing processor readable code for causing a processor to perform a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

information retrieving processor readable code for causing a processor to retrieve the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notifying processor readable code for causing a processor to notify the user of matched and retrieved information.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 16, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 17, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 16, further comprising option input processor readable code for causing a processor to enable a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

20. **(Cancelled).**

21. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 22, wherein the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 25, wherein in the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

28. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 11, further comprising the

step of presenting the subscription to the user.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 28, wherein the presenting step presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription presenting processor readable code for causing a processor to present the subscription to the user.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The medium of claim 31, wherein the subscription presenting processor readable code presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising syntax checking means for determining whether code input in the programmed selection formula is correct.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription disabling means for temporarily discontinuing the subscription for a predetermined period of time.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the search criteria corresponding to the subscription is an electronic mail message containing a predetermined text.

36. **(Cancelled).**

37. **(New)** A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to input a selection formula, said selection formula including search criteria corresponding to a subscription, wherein said search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

performing a search in said at least one database to identify the information corresponding to said search criteria of said selection formula;

retrieving said identified information; and

presenting said retrieved information to the user.

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